

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05
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/097 W

-----016578 171216Z /10

R 170001Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8991

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EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 42967; (B) MEXICO 1315; (C) MEXICO 21492

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTS APPROVAL AND ALLOTMENT
AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS TO SIGN FIRST LETTER OF AGREEMENT
UNDER FY 78 FUNDING FOR THE HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING
PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED DOLLARS 500,000. FUNDS TO BE
DISBURSED TO AG OFFICE ON AN ADVANCE OR REIMBURSABLE
BASIS TO DEFRAY U.S. CONTRACTOR COSTS TO TRAIN TOTAL OF
25 AERO SERVICES PILOTS WITHIN A SIX-MONTH TIME FRAME
IN ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY TRANSMITTED LETTER OF NOTIFICATION TO ATTORNEY
GENERAL (AG) FLORES ON WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF FY 78
FUNDING REQUEST UPON RECEIPT OF REF (A). FOLLOW-UP
MEETINGS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA DEFINED PRIORITI-
ZATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES WITH UNANIMITY ON HELICOPTER
PILOT TRAINING PROJECT AS MOST CRITICAL. DEPARTMENT MAY
RECALL BAEZA UNDERScored AG FLORES' CONCERN ON TRAINING
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SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ROTARY WING (RW) PILOTS AND EVEN
SUGGESTED U.S. MILITARY SOURCES FOR TRAINING DURING
HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN MIAMI. SUBSEQUENT INQUIRIES BY
S/NM REVEALED MILITARY TRAINING COSTS WERE EXHORBITANT
AND BAEZA LATER INFORMED EMBASSY THEY CONCLUDED MILITARY
TYPE TRAINING FOR AERO SERVICES PILOTS COULD HAVE
POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.

3. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH AG SENIOR STAFF IN JUNE, 1977, ON THE AVAILABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL, REPUTABLE U.S. CIVILIAN TRAINING FACILITIES FOR RW MECHANIC TRAINING, EMBASSY TECHNICAL STAFF PROVIDED AG TRAINING DIRECTOR A LIST OF U.S. CENTERS FOR BOTH RW MECHANIC AND PILOT TRAINING. CONACYT (GOM EQUIVALENT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION) REVIEWED LIST AND SUBMITTED A CERTIFICATION TO AG OFFICE ON BEST QUALIFIED CENTERS WHICH MET THEIR CRITERIA INCLUDING NORTHROP UNIVERSITY AND SOUTHLAND. (BOTH LOCATED IN CALIFORNIA). REF (C) INFORMED DEPARTMENT GOM HAD UNILATERALLY FUNDED THE TRAINING COSTS FOR 21 MECHANICS AT NORTHROP UNIVERSITY FOR 74 WEEKS.

4. AG OFFICE CONDUCTED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IN CONFORMITY WITH ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES AND SELECTED SOUTHLAND BASED ON THEIR AGREEMENT WITH NORTHROP UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE BOTH ROOM AND BOARD FOR PILOT TRAINEES AT SUCH A LOW COST AS TO MAKE OTHER PROPOSALS NON-COMPETITIVE. TRAINING SYLLABUS WAS JOINTLY DEVELOPED BY AG AND EMBASSY AVIATION SPECIALISTS AND INCLUDES AERIAL SPRAYING TECHNIQUES TRAINING. THE TOTAL TIME FRAME TO TRAIN 25 PILOTS WHO WILL RECEIVE AN FAA COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER PILOT'S LICENSE SHOULD NOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS.

5. ESSENTIALLY, THE AG OFFICE WILL CONTRACT THE SELECTED PILOT TRAINING CANDIDATE FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS WITH A UNCLASSIFIED

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS DURING HIS TRAINING PERIOD. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT, THE CANDIDATES AGREE AMONG MANY OTHER STRINGENT CONDITIONS, TO SIGN A PROMISSORY NOTE FOR THE PRORATED AMOUNT (U.S. 25,000) OF HIS U.S. TRAINING WHICH COMMITS HIM TO REIMBURSE THE AG OFFICE ON A BI-WEEKLY WITHHOLDING BASIS 90 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF TRAINING UNTIL THE FULL AMOUNT IS LIQUIDATED. THESE PAYMENTS ARE DEPOSITED IN AN AG BANK ACCOUNT TO BE UTILIZED FOR OTHER U.S. TRAINING COURSES OR FOR CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES. WHILE IN TRAINING STATUS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, THE CANDIDATE WILL RECEIVE A MODEST WEEKLY STIPEND IN ADDITION TO HIS ROOM AND BOARD AND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CLASSES. ONE OF THE SEVERE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE CONTRACT TERMS COMPELS THE CANDIDATE TO REPAY THE FULL AMOUNT AT A NINE PERCENT RATE OF INTEREST IF HE DOES NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THE CONTRACTUAL STIPULATIONS.

6. SUBSTANTIVE TEXT IN THE PROPOSED LETTER OF AGREEMENT IN THE SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAPHS READ AS FOLLOWS:
"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AGREES TO PROVIDE FUNDS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978, ON AN ADVANCE OR

REIMBURSABLE BASIS FOR THE TRAINING OF 25 HELICOPTER
PILOTS IN THE UNITED STATES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FIVE
HUNDRED THOUSAND (U.S. \$500,000).

"THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AGREES TO PROVIDE THE SUFFICIENT
NUMBER OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR TRAINING IN THE UNITED
STATES AND TO ADHERE TO SCHEDULES MUTUALLY DEVELOPED FOR
CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF PILOTS IN MEXICO". END OF
SUBSTANTIVE TEXT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE PROPOSED
SUBSTANTIVE TEXT AND AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO TRANSLATE
INTO SPANISH TO PROVIDE AG FLORES A COURTESY TRANSLATION
UPON EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. LUCEY
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